

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

This is not the first time Sinclair has used their control of the public airwaves to further the re-election of George Bush. This type of behavior is commensurate with that of people like Ken Lay and should not be allowed to continue. It undermines the integrity of the American people to continue to let the Bush political machine buy the airwaves for their own agenda through a backdoor type of agreement.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.